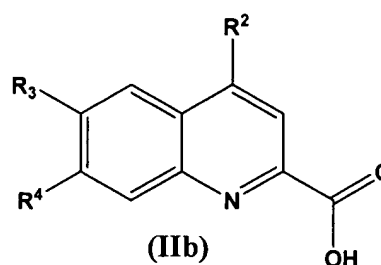
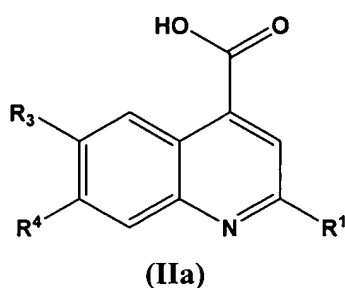


**Amendments to the Specification:**

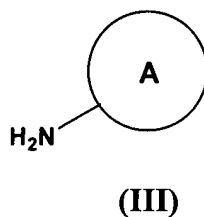
Please replace paragraph [0125] with the following amended paragraph:

[0125] Another aspect of the present invention provides a process for preparing a compound of formula (I) or a salt, solvate or pro-drug thereof which process (wherein variable groups are, unless otherwise specified, as defined in formula (I)) comprises:

*Process 1*): reacting an acid of formula (IIa) or (IIb):

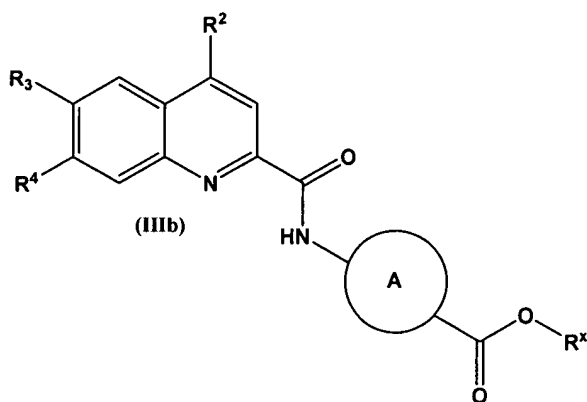
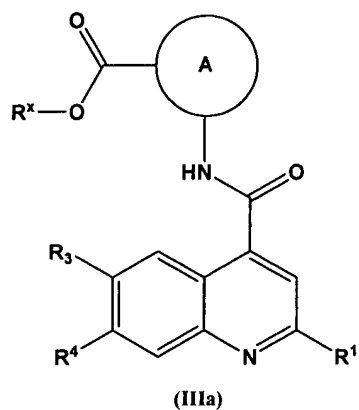


or an activated derivative thereof; with a compound of formula (III):



or

*Process 2*) for compounds of formula (I) wherein R<sup>6</sup> is carboxy; deprotecting a compound of formula (IIIa) or (IIIb):



wherein  $\text{R}^x\text{C}(\text{O})\text{O}-$   $\text{R}^x\text{OC}(\text{O})-$  is an ester group;

and thereafter if necessary or desirable:

- i) converting a compound of the formula (I) into another compound of the formula (I);
- ii) removing any protecting groups;
- iii) forming a salt, solvate or pro-drug thereof.